



## NEWS RELEASE

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### FLORIDA HIGHWAY PATROL PARTICIPATES IN NATIONWIDE CLICK IT OR TICKET CAMPAIGN

*~ Troopers prepare for nationwide effort ~*

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** – One of the easiest things motorists can do to protect themselves in a crash is to fasten their safety belts. That is the message the Florida Highway Patrol is delivering to motorists who defy Florida's safety belt law and neglect to buckle up. The Patrol will join local and national law enforcement officers and highway safety advocates all across the country for the 2011 national *Click It or Ticket* safety belt enforcement mobilization on May 23 - June 5. During the mobilization, officers will crack down on motorists who fail to fasten their safety belts.

"Many traffic deaths can be prevented if more motorists simply buckle up. That is why the Florida Highway Patrol is strongly supporting enhanced enforcement of safety belt laws during the upcoming *Click It or Ticket* campaign," said Major Timothy Ashley, commander of FHP's Troop H, which covers eight counties in the Big Bend area. "We will be out in full force to remind drivers and passengers to always fasten their safety belts."

Florida law requires all drivers and occupants in the front seat of a vehicle to fasten their safety belt. Occupants under the age of 18, regardless of where they sit in a vehicle, also must buckle up. Safety belts have long been proven to save lives and reduce injuries when worn properly during a vehicle crash. Motorists cited for failure to buckle up face a non-moving violation that carries a \$30 base fine, plus court costs if convicted.

Florida achieved a record high last year when the safety belt usage rate climbed to reach 87.4 percent, following the May 24 - June 6 *Click It or Ticket* campaign. For additional details and statistics on the Sunshine State's 2010 safety belt usage, to include county statistics, visit the Florida Department of Transportation's website at [www.dot.state.fl.us/safety/](http://www.dot.state.fl.us/safety/).

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles provides highway safety and security through excellence in service, education and enforcement. The Department is leading the way to a safer Florida through the efficient and professional execution of its core mission: the issuance of driver licenses, vehicle tags and titles and operation of the Florida Highway Patrol. To learn more about DHSMV and the services offered, visit [www.flhsmv.gov](http://www.flhsmv.gov), follow [@FDHSMV](https://twitter.com/FDHSMV) on Twitter or visit the Department's [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/flhsmv) page.

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